Rivers identified for cleaning in Uttar Pradesh

292. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:
DR. RANBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified rivers in Uttar Pradesh so far during the current year which require cleaning;

(b) if so, the names thereof; and

(c) the measures Government propose to take for cleaning of these rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No new rivers have been identified in Uttar Pradesh by the Government during the current year which require cleaning.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

State Pollution Boards

293. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the performance of State Pollution Boards for the last three years, State-wise and year-wise, in terms of resolving major problems;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) what are the major deficiencies in the working and performance of State Pollution Boards, State-wise;

(d) specific steps/fresh initiatives taken/ proposed to make the State Pollution Control Boards more efficient and capable and properly equipped/strengthened and to handle the workload entrusted to the State Pollution Boards; and

(e) the additional fund proposed to strengthen State Pollution Boards during Ninth Plan, State-wise break-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) are under the administrative control of respective State Governments. Therefore, the performance of SPCBs are reviewed by the concerned State Governments. However, based on the interaction with the SPCBs on national programmes, the deficiencies that have been noticed relate to:

(1) Inadequate funding support from State Government;

(2) Ban on recruitment of manpower by State Governments;

(3) Frequent changes of Member-Secretary and Chairmen of the State Boards; and

(4) Inadequate infrastructure.

(d) Regarding strengthening of State Pollution Control Boards, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has taken up the motion or with the State Governments. The steps taken/initiated for strengthening of State Boards include the following:

(1) Increasing cess rates for augmenting the resources of the State Boards;

(2) Strengthening of State Boards in terms of laboratory facilities;

(3) Providing training to the officials on different aspects relating to prevention and control of pollution;

(4) Strengthening of State Boards under various bilateral programmes; and

(5) Financial assistance on specific programes for abatement of pollution.

(6) State Pollution Control Boards viz. Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra. Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Karnataka are being strengthened under World Bank aided projects.

(e) No direct additional funds have been proposed for strengthening the State Pollution Control during Ninth Plan. However, an amount of Rs. 11 crores, as against Rs. 7 crores during the Eighth Plan, has been earmarked by the Planning Commission during the Ninth Five Year Plan for the scheme "Assistance for Abatement of Pollution", for undertaking speciric time-bound projects which are generally implemented through State Pollution Control Boards.